

# 1992

**January 18, 1992  
Third Symposium  
Safford, Arizona**

Program Chair, Harland Tompkins. Local Arrangements Chair, Betty Lee. The Graham County Historical Society hosted the symposium and provided refreshments throughout the day. Over 80 people attended, which was held in the Old Armory. There were eight speakers, most being chapter members. For those who stayed overnight, Bettu Lee led the group to some prehistoric Indian ruins the next day.



Spencer Brinkerhoff, President of the Graham County Historical Society (on right) accepts a copy of the Western Emigrant Trails map, a gift to the society from the chapter. Program Chair, Harland Tompkins presented the map to the society.



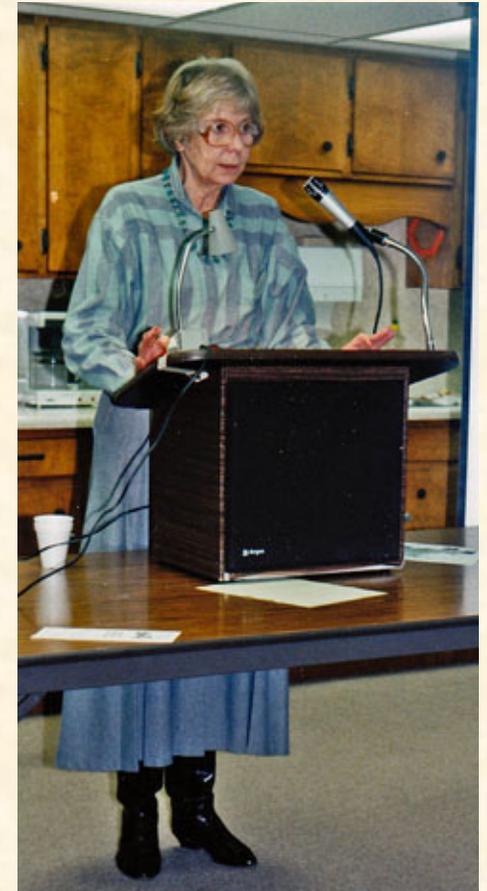
Local arrangements Included a lavish assortment of refreshments.



Doyle Reed spoke on "Journey with the Donner Party"



Invited speaker, Robert Trennert, spoke on "Route 66 in Arizona: A 20th Century Trail"



Patricia Etter spoke on "Views on the Southern Route"



Don Buck spoke on "Trail Tracking: Identifying, Verifying, Plotting the Emigrant Trails thru Nevada & California"



Susan Badger Doyle spoke on "Intercultural Perspectives of the Bozeman Trail"



Robert Lee spoke on "Getting the Scoop on my Great-grandparents: How OCTA Helped"



Aubrey Haines spoke on "Ezra Meeker, Publicist for the Oregon Trail"



On Saturday evening, the chapter had a business meeting and election of officers. Jim Carter, on right, conducting business.



Some of the business meeting participants: Susan Doyle, Shann Rupp, Reba Wells, Bill Rupp, and Kenneth Tompkins.



Hiking to Indian ruins on Sunday.



Betty Lee, on left, points out details of artifacts at the ruin site to Susan Doyle, Reba Wells and Don Buck.

**March 7-8, 1992**

**Pilot Peak, California, Yuma and Sears Point, Arizona  
Southern Trail**

Trip organized by the Southwest Chapter and the California-Nevada Chapter. The first day was a tour of the Yuma crossing area of the Colorado River, including Pilot Peak on the California side of the river. The evening was a meal which included food items utilized by the Indians and early people of the area. Reba Wells presented a slide show on the Independence Rock of the Southwest, namely the Sears Point region. The next day was a trip to Sears Point to view both Indian petroglyphs and emigrant inscriptions.



BLM archeologist Boma Johnson, in center with cap, gathers the group to point out various sites around Yuma and Pilots Peak.



The Saturday night dinner included a number of foods indigenous to the southwest desert. It was quite a feast.

Filling their plates were Jack Root, Sheri Lee, Bob Lee, and Orme Lamson.





In the Gila River bottom near Sears Point are the remains of a homesteaders cabin.



The group circled their wagons in the parking area at Sears Point, part of which is shown at the left part of the photo.



Boma Johnson points out details on the rocks at Sears Point.

Baldwin Lamson examines inscriptions at Sears Point.

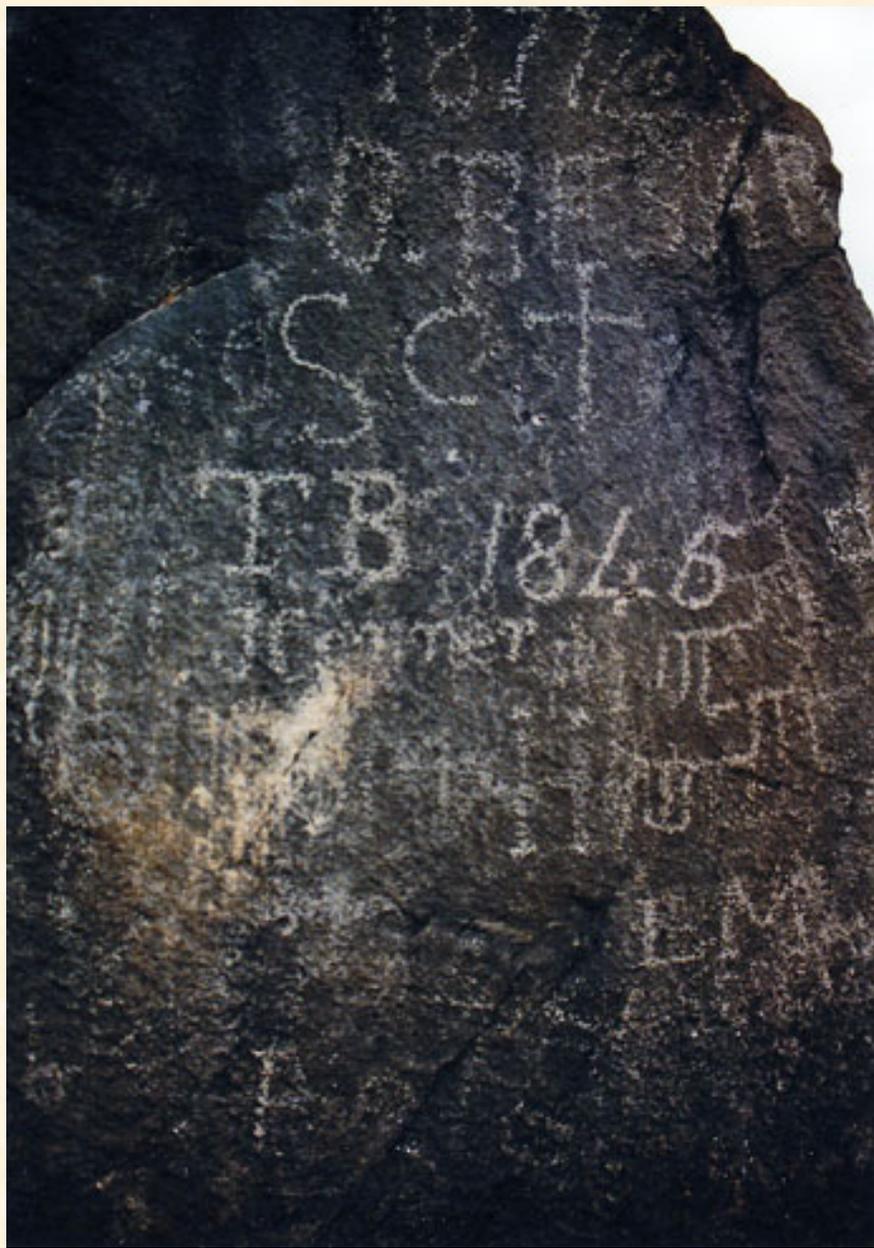




Harland Tompkins ponders the meaning of the paths on the mesa behind Sears Point. Supposedly they have been made by Native Americans who still frequent the area for various ceremonies.



Sample inscriptions from the Sears Point area.



Sample inscriptions from the Sears Point area.

**April 25-26, 1992**

**Whitmire Pass, New Mexico to Guadalupe Canyon, Arizona  
Southern Trail**

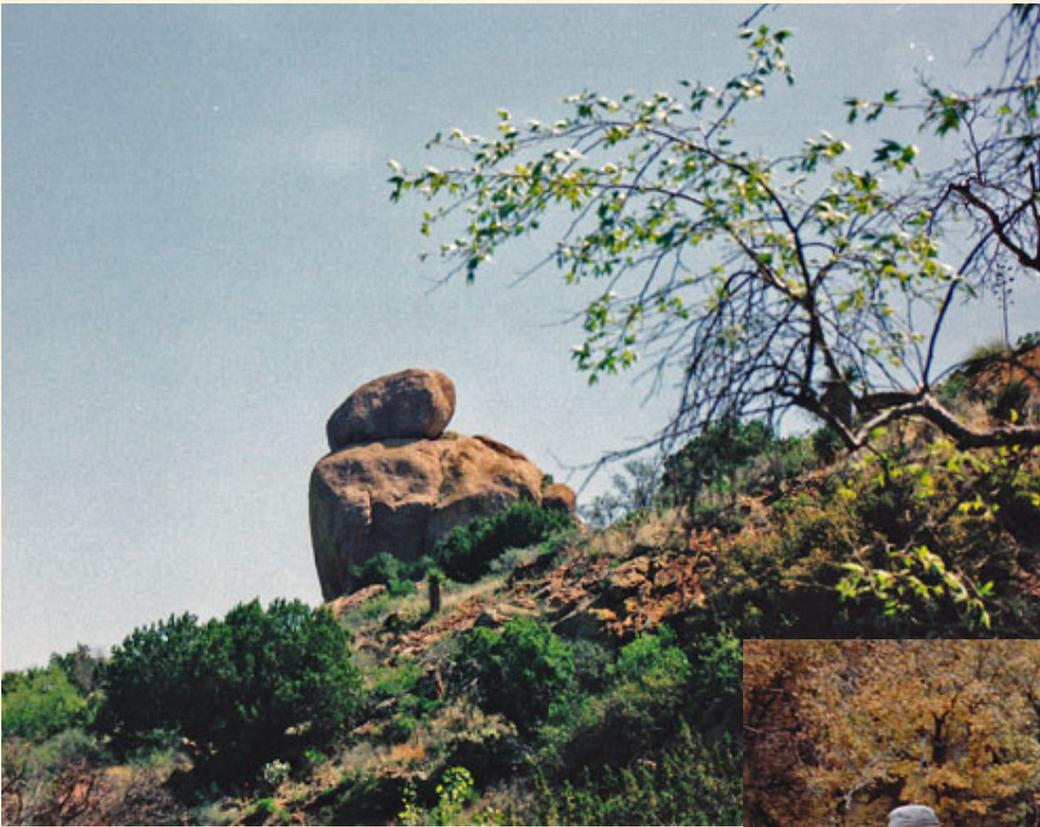
Trip led by the Roots and the Etters. Pat Etter got permission to go into Guadalupe Canyon as far as Capped Rock. This private land is not usually available to visitors. At the entrance to the canyon is a US/Mexico boundary marker. Moving on to the Animas Valley in New Mexico, the group stopped at Cloverdale, an abandoned community. After viewing the surrounding private terrain, it was on to Lordsburg for the night. The next day was a stop at the Gray Ranch Nature Conservancy. A local rancher talked to us about the early days of ranching in Animas Valley. The final stop was at Whitmire Pass, where the trail passed through on its way from Playas Lake to Animas Valley.



Reba Wells, facing camera, talks about Slaughter Ranch, east of Douglas.

Viewing the US/Mexico boundary marker near the entrance to Guadalupe Canyon.





Capped Rock in Guadalupe Canyon. This landmark was often noted by emigrants in their diaries.



Wagon repairs along the way.





Ruth Root and Susan Doyle at the former Cloverdale store.



Time to check the maps.



Scenery across the Animas Valley



Listening to history of the Gray Ranch are Fiona Reed, Susan Doyle, Ruth Root, Vilma Buck, Harland Tompkins, Pat Etter, and Don Buck.

Rancher George Pendleton, on right, told the group about the early history of the area and pointed out things on an early map.





Paul and Pat Etter enjoy their lunch at Whitmire Pass. To the east in the background is Playas Lake bed.

**July 18-19, 1992**  
**Fifth Planning Meeting**  
**Alto, New Mexico**

This planning meeting was hosted by Jim and Marion Carter at their mountain home. Programs for the next year were put on the calendar.



The Carters and their Alto, New Mexico home.



Doyle Reed, Betty Lee, Fiona Reed, Charles Townley,  
and Jim Carter

Marion Carter, Harland Tompkins, Rose Ann  
Tompkins, and Sherri Lee



**September 19-20, 1992**  
**Bluff, Utah**  
**Hole-in-the-Wall Trail**

Susan Badger Doyle led this trip. The Hole-in-the-Wall Trail was built by Mormon pioneers from Escalante to Bluff in 1879-80. Known mostly for the blasted road down to the Colorado River crossing, much other road building was done. The group looked at parts of the trail from Cedar Mesa to Bluff. Due to the recent rains, Comb Wash was running heavily and parts of the trail could not be accessed. But it was possible to see parts of the trail, from slick rock to difficult wash crossings.



Group photo at the top of Utah's Moqui Dugway.

The Saturday morning in Bluff had a side benefit of a parade for the Navajo Festival weekend.



The Bluff cemetery held graves of many of the original Mormon pioneers who came over the Hole-in-the Wall Trail.



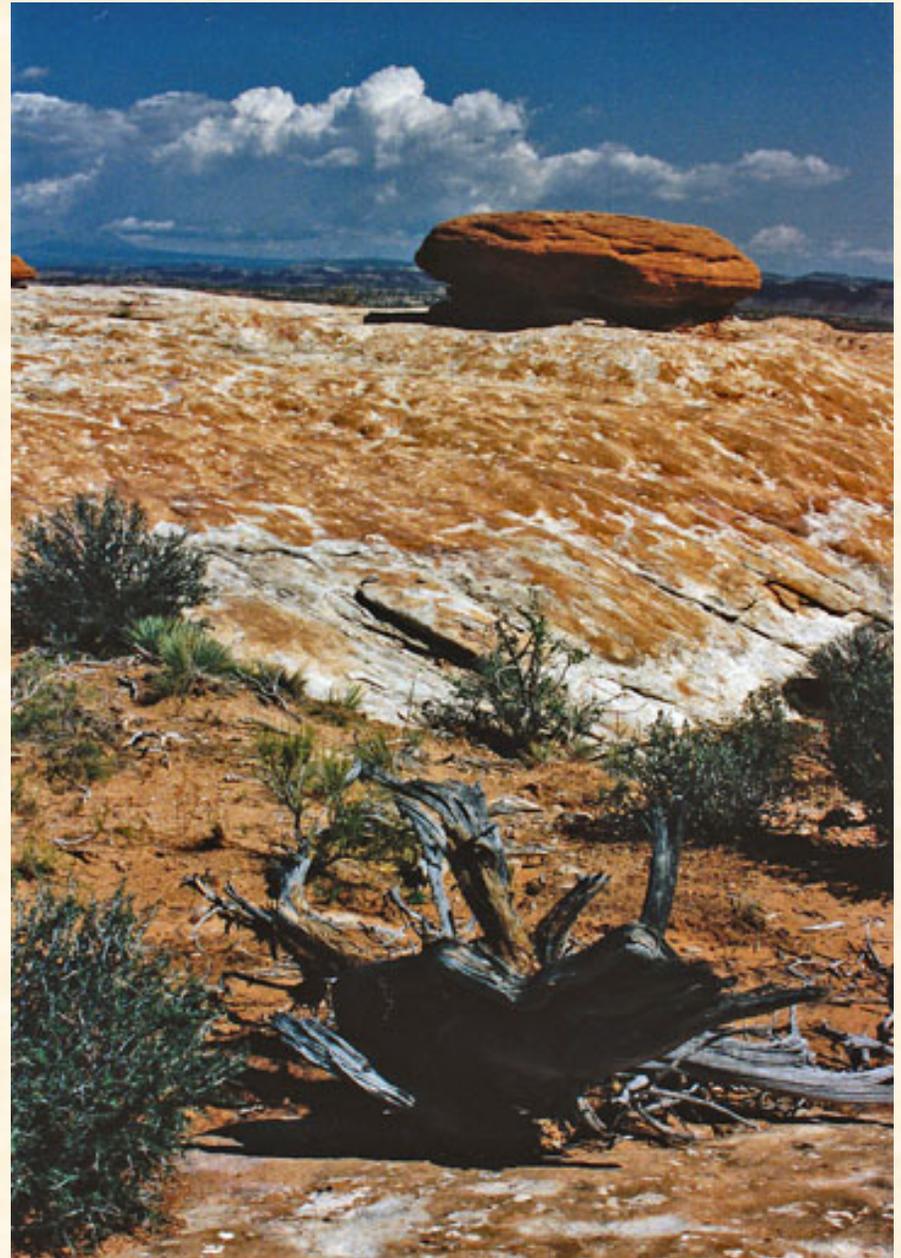
A good sized storm the night before in the Bluff area meant the usually dry washes were running full.



Susan Doyle walks down the old trail between the San Juan River and Bluff. There is a switchback here and the rock buildup of the road can be seen.



This area of the old trail can be driven, though it is rough and over slick rock. This is between the Colorado River and the San Juan River.



The scenery of the area is quite spectacular.

# Five Years of SOUTHWEST OCTA

## A Retrospective

By Jack Root

As you read this, 1992 is recent history. The Autumn of that year marked the fifth anniversary of our Chapter's founding. It seems appropriate then, to look back over those five years, to our origins and our early efforts, to see how our determination to thrive as a vital dynamic, regional arm of OCTA worked out.

It all began in the year of '87 when Mary Mueller, bless her, called and suggested that there ought to be a chapter build around the Arizona Membership and would I be willing to get something going? For this selfless act, Mary has been honored with the title "Midwife of the Southeast Chapter". Mary also tossed me the name of a Lady named Lee (Betty Graham, that is,) from Safford, who might be helpful. Not having any good excuses handy, I sent off a memo to the handful of AZ OCTA members of the time from a list provided by Chuck Dodd and his computer. The date was July 15, 1987. I asked that those attending the upcoming Casper Convention meet there to assess the interest in forming an Arizona Chapter. Those not going to the Convention were asked to write or call me with their thoughts.

The enthusiasm shown by the 8 or 10 people (not all from AZ) was a signal to proceed. I next issued an invitation to those interested to meet in Tucson in early October for a luncheon session at the Doubletree Inn. About a dozen people responded. This became the organizational meeting and our first field trip soon followed - to the upper Gila River sites seen by Kearny's Army in 1846. Bob and Betty Lee were our host/guides.

From that day to this, the SW Chapter has planned and carried out a remarkable series of field trips reaching across the states of New Mexico and Arizona and into the deserts of Southern California and Utah. Field trips are probably our greatest strength. To this writer, they have been unfailingly well-planned, well-executed, interesting and educational. The usual 3/4 of our membership (now 36 families in 7 states) who do not join them are missing some rich experiences.

An idea proposed by our second president, Harland Tompkins, came to fruition when the chapter sponsored Symposia in the cities of

Tucson, Casa Grande and Safford. Members and guest speakers were given the opportunity to present topics relating to SW History to an audience receptive to their interests.

Another tradition has developed over the years- the summer planning meeting. All members who can make it, gather at some (preferably higher altitude spot and lay out an agenda for the ensuing Fall, Winter and Spring months. These meetings have been most effective at keeping us in touch and on track during the hot summer months when desert creatures get out of the sun.

Along with the above strengths, one must, in candor, cite some challenges and opportunities that our Chapter has yet to grasp

- \* We have not been aggressive in seeking new members nor in urging greater participation in our activities.
- \* We have done little in the way of Trail Identification, mapping, Preservation. This also applies to Historic Sites and Graves.
- \* We have pretty much ignored Public Relations, Publicity, Awards to cooperative landowners and ranchers, etc.
- \* We have not sought to educate and attract the younger generations who must carry on the work toward the goals of OCTA.

Finally, we take pride in that three National OCTA Board members as well as NFP Editor and the Publications Chair hold membership in our Chapter.

Perhaps over the next five years our current and future leadership can help us to maintain all that we've accomplished, as well as to meet the challenges that lie ahead. I must say it's been a grand trip so far, with a lot of wonderful companions.